

*Congressman Receives American Cancer Society -- Cancer Action Network's "Capitol Dome Award" and Woodstock Land Conservancy's "Second Annual William R. Ginsberg Stewardship Award"*

*Kingston, NY* -- In recognition of his work throughout a nearly four decade-long career in public service, the American Cancer Society -- Cancer Action Network and the Woodstock Land Conservancy each held events this past weekend to honor Congressman Maurice Hinchey (D-NY) and his legislative accomplishments and efforts to promote cancer research and treatment and environmental protection.

"I am incredibly honored and humbled to receive two prestigious awards from such highly regarded organizations," Hinchey said. "The American Cancer Society -- Cancer Action Network and the Woodstock Land Conservancy perform such outstanding work day in and day out and it was my honor to help fight and advance policies in Albany and Washington that help reach our shared goals of supporting those with cancer and ultimately seeking a cure and protecting our environment for all future generations to cherish and enjoy. I thank them for honoring me with these wonderful awards and pledge to continue my efforts on their behalf even after I leave public office at the start of next year."

The American Cancer Society -- Cancer Action Network honored Hinchey on Friday, May 11 with its "Capitol Dome Award" -- the highest national award given by the group. The "Capitol Dome Award" is a national recognition given to individuals "whose efforts demonstrate leadership on legislative issues of high priority to the American Cancer Society." It is the American Cancer Society's most prestigious recognition for legislative leadership. The award was given out at American Cancer Society's Hudson Valley Birthday Bash, which is the organization's signature event, honoring people for their commitment to helping create a world with more birthdays by fighting back against cancer through volunteerism and community service.

As a member of the House Appropriations Committee and as a member of the Congressional Cancer Caucus, Hinchey has consistently fought for increased funding to support cancer research, treatment, and prevention. The congressman was a strong support of a provision in the health care law of 2010 -- the Affordable Care Act -- that now prevents health insurance companies from refusing to provide coverage to people with pre-existing conditions. The law also bars insurance companies from imposing annual and lifetime limits on the amount of care they will cover.

As part of its Vernal Fling celebration on Saturday, May 12, the Woodstock Land Conservancy honored Congressman Hinchey with its "Second Annual William R. Ginsberg Stewardship Award", whose namesake was a nationally-known advocate for open space, pioneering professor of environmental law, and a catalyst in the preservation of over 30,000 acres in the Catskills.

Hinchey has represented the Hudson Valley for all of his 38 years in public office, including 14 years as Chairman of the Environmental Conservation Committee in the New York State Assembly where he authored numerous laws enhancing and protecting the region's precious resources and landscapes. One such law established the Hudson River Greenway and another established the State Environmental Quality Review Act, an important tool that helps ensure that development in New York achieves the highest environmental standards. Hinchey built on that work after arriving in Congress by authoring the legislation that established the Hudson River Valley National Heritage Area. The congressman also developed a strong record on national environmental issues, which most recently include efforts to expand the use of solar and other forms of renewable energy, especially in New York, and the safeguarding of drinking water supplies from the controversial natural gas extraction process known as hydraulic fracturing.

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